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AL DITTY DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO A CITY THAT ONE DAY WOULD TAKE IT AWAY

Injustice for Al

MULLEN Demoted for being gay *p. 6* | **FOOD** Is this heaven? No, it's Hy-Vee *p. 17* | **MUSIC** Who's afraid of Timbre Ghost? *p. 35*

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INJUSTICE FOR AL

Al Ditty dedicated his life to a city that one day would take it away.

By Cory Zurowski

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CROSSWORD

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DARIN KAMNETZ

THE STAT SHEET

10,000
Attendance at the March for Science at the Capitol, where a majority of legislators still don't believe in climate change

$2.17 billion
Latest quarterly earnings for UnitedHealth, explaining why momma always told you to grow up to be a middleman

15
Minutes it took for Adam Sandler to sell out his show at Treasure Island casino

50
Number of people wounded in shootings in St. Paul during the first four months of 2017

"Pray tell, vandal, where do you want this person to go? Somewhere where religious freedom is allowed?"

Reader Don Osborn in response to "Crookston, Minnesota 'Christians' vandalize atheist's truck," at citypages.com

GRANDSTANDING

ST. PAUL COUNCILMAN Dai Thao is running for mayor. Which means that, like all good lefties, he must be seen as fighting the good fight, even if it's with the sword of empty symbolism.

Thao introduced a resolution asking Minnesota's congressional delegation to author a bill demanding the U.S. House investigate whether President Trump could be impeached for "constitutional violations." Since this is akin to asking Wells Fargo to investigate banking ethics, the measure was meaningless.

But instead of partaking in yet another adventure of raging emptiness, the council rejected Thao's resolution by a 6-1 vote. For one brief moment, a group of politicians decided their knives were better sheathed until a real fight came along.

POPULAR STORIES
AT CITYPAGES.COM

ADAM SANDLER announces super-rare standup gig in Minnesota

In Edina, guy pulls real gun on teenagers playing with **NERF GUNS** [Video]

BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES 2017

Savage Love: How do you get **'PERSISTENT DICK MONSTERS'** to leave sex parties?

MUSIC IN THE ZOO announces 2017 lineup and don't worry, the Indigo Girls are coming back

BEWARE THE WATER THIEVES

Someday, scientists say, the South will come to take our water

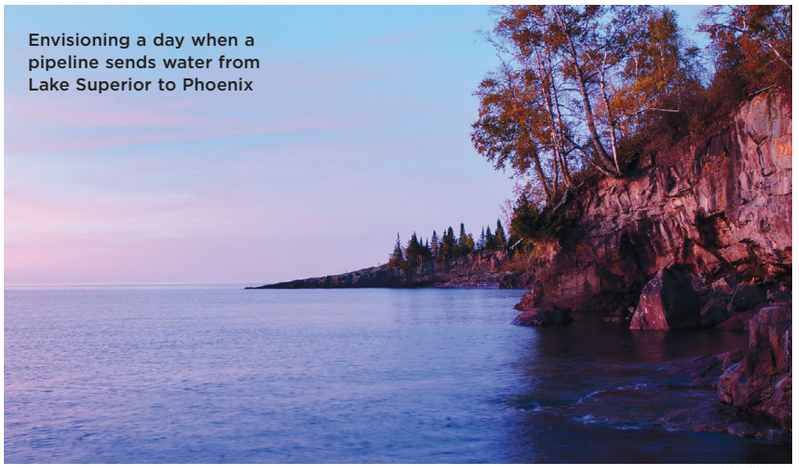
Jesse Schomberg remembers the conversations.

They took place at an academic forum in St. Louis. As a staffer at Minnesota Sea Grant, a science program in Duluth that advocates for "Lake Superior and inland lakes," Schomberg paid close mind to his peers' vexation over fresh water.

"What my colleagues were saying was it's a huge issue," says Schomberg. "California had a drought for many, many years. I don't think anybody really believes it's solved because they had one wet winter. In Florida, [there are] salt water intrusions encroaching on where their [drinking water] wells used to be dug because sea levels are rising. Where there used to be fresh water, they're now pulling up salt water.

"And it's getting worse. It's very clearly getting worse. We don't hear about these kind of water issues here in Minnesota."

Perhaps it's only a matter of time before we do.



Envisioning a day when a pipeline sends water from Lake Superior to Phoenix

JIM GORUM

Jay Farmigletti thinks so. He's a hydrologist and the chief water scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. In an interview with ideastream.org earlier this month, Farmigletti warned the day is coming when parched sections of the U.S. will look to piping in water from the Great Lakes.

"You might imagine that there's a giant bullseye that can be seen from space that's sitting above the Great Lakes, meaning: It's a target area in a sense for the rest of the country," he said. "Because there's so much fresh water, you can imagine that 50 years from now there might actually be a pipeline that brings water from the Great Lakes to Phoenix. I think that's part of our future."

Lake Superior, the largest lake in the world, contains an eighth of the world's fresh water. Residents of Duluth and many North Shore communities rely on it for their water needs. But population and demand on fresh water are increasing while supply remains constant. As a result, many regions are starting to feel the pressure. A recent government report found that 40 of 50 states expect water shortages in some portion in the next 10 years.

According to Farmigletti, it's getting critical.

"We do have water in some places — the northern half of the country has a lot more water than the southern half — and so as the population grows, and as climate continues to change, we probably will have to move water from where it is to where it is not." —CORY ZUROWSKI

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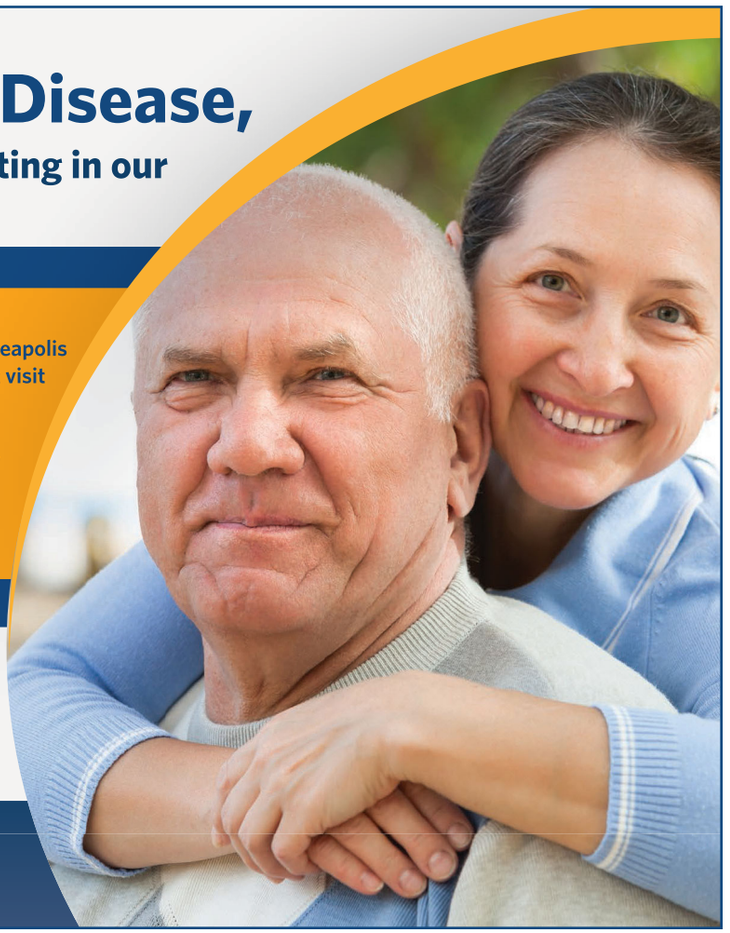
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Straight Man's World

In Eagan, the mysterious demotion of a gay firefighter



Mike Mullen

Dan Benson can't recall what caught his attention about a personal ad he saw in the Twin Cities Reader in late 1988. What he remembers isn't romantic at all.

Benson, then 24, had moved back in with his parents in Stillwater, and was in bed with the shingles. At first, he avoided meeting the man who'd placed the ad, instead spending hours talking to him on the phone.

He would eventually move into his new boyfriend's Burnsville condo. Later, they bought their first house together.

By the late 1990s, Benson had spent a decade and a half at an unfulfilling desk job at the University of Minnesota. He saw a poster recruiting firefighters in Eagan, where he and his partner had settled.

Though they're called "volunteers," Eagan's department is a "paid on-call" force. Most members work other jobs, and are only paid when they train or respond to a call.

Benson thrived and was promoted through the ranks, eventually becoming a battalion chief, supervising emergency scenes. If he was first to arrive, he did CPR. He's not bragging when he says a few people are still walking around Eagan because of him. That's just his job. Or it was.

Last October, Chief Mike Scott informed officers they would all have to reapply for their jobs. Benson says the chief explained this was merely a way to make sure everyone was in the job they wanted.

At the meeting, the chief asked firefighters to answer a few questions of the personal, get-to-know-your-co-workers variety. Benson jotted some notes, writing that he sells "music collectibles," "used to work at First Avenue," and he "always wanted to be a [firefighter] since [he] saw a neighbor's house burn down in 1969."

He also mentioned that he's married to a guy named Greg, that they're dads to a 14-year-old boy, and have hosted exchange students who they "consider sons."

Benson's closest friends in the department knew he was gay. Others might've figured it out over the years. But this was the first time he'd explicitly outed himself.

> **"I responded to more calls than any other chief."**

A few days after Thanksgiving, Scott called Benson into his office. The chief ran down a list of issues with Benson's performance. The letter explained that Benson's reapplication was denied, and that he could be rehired as a "firefighter" — entry-level and four ranks lower than battalion chief, and without the $8,000 annual stipend that comes with that rank.

Benson disputed Scott's reasons for demoting him, which didn't include anything about fighting flames. Benson used a personal cell phone for "department business," read one accusation. Another said he'd posted video of a fire to Youtube. (Benson explained the video was uploaded under a private, invitation-only setting, which he'd done at the request of Burnsville's fire chief.)

In person, and then in his own letter, Benson argued he'd never been docked for performance or attendance. "I responded to more calls than any other chief," he wrote in a letter to city officials. "I saved some lives and I put out some fires."

Earlier this month, his attorneys served Eagan with a civil complaint, alleging their client had been discriminated against for his sexual orientation, and for not conforming to "Scott's expectations" that his firefighters "must be 'manly' men who are attracted to and date only women."

Benson suggests Scott is not himself a bigot, and might have been acting to keep peace with other, less open-minded firefighters.

Scott declined to answer questions, but offered a statement: In light of a reorganizing of the "number and location" of its firehouses, the department decided an "elimination of some of the prior appointed leadership positions" was in order.

That version conflicts with Benson's lawsuit, which contends he was the only person demoted or even forced to re-interview, and that his battalion chief job was given to a straight man.

The Eagan Fire Department has been facing a crisis for several years running now, one that Scott has spoken of often: It can't retain people. As one of the last big departments depending on on-call volunteers, Eagan's stream of able bodies has died down to a flicker. Last year, it had 87 volunteers, about 60 percent of the number on call in 2010.

Given the situation, you'd think Scott would hold on for dear life to someone like Dan Benson, who wrote to city officials that he'd "arranged [his] life around the department." Benson was approaching the 20-year mark, at which point his retirement plan would be 100 percent vested.

If Benson quits before reaching 20 years, he estimates he'd leave $50,000 in pension funds on the table.

The Sunday before last, even with his legal claim pending, Benson answered his first call back on the job, this time as a rookie working alongside — and beneath — firefighters he'd hired over the years.

"I got a lot of hugs when I got back, people were glad to see me," he says. "There's people I love on that department. They're my brothers and sisters."

He says he doesn't want to do anything to hurt them, and that his fight with the city is about bigger things.

"I was kind of like, 'Fuck it,' when it first happened," he says. "But talking to friends, it's just like you can't let that happen. And with a lot of gay friends, they're like, 'You can't let that happen to us.' And I agreed with that. It's not right." CP

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GALEN FLETCHER

Injustice for Al

AL DITTY DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO A CITY THAT ONE DAY WOULD TAKE IT AWAY

BY CORY ZUROWSKI

Dorleen Ditty was marinating in a *Newlywed Game* marathon when she heard Al's feet on the stairs. The 79-year-old knew why her bachelor son, with whom she shared her Brooklyn Center house, was disappearing into the basement again. Maternal worry dictated she ask anyway.

"So I can sleep. I sleep good down there," said 54-year-old Al Ditty just before noon.

He'd slept for an hour that night, if at all. The last time he ate a regular meal, God only knew.

This unsettled life had been Al's lot going on three months now. It began when his bosses at the Minneapolis Public Works Department suspended him and refused to tell him why.

Al's insomnia meant seesawing between bedrooms. He'd start upstairs in the room with the framed Homer Hankie and the Jesse Ventura bobblehead. When his frustration got too thick, Al headed for the mattress in the basement. Foiled again, he'd hike back upstairs. So the cycle churned.

He needed rest. He wanted peace. He'd been denied both. His malfunctioning had grown more pronounced in the past week, ever since the city fired Al after 32 years on the job.

Dorleen recused herself from another rerun of her game show. She walked down the hall to her bedroom, where she used her cane to rap on the floor.

"Al? Al? Are you okay?"

She worried about the welfare of her boy, with his pudgy six-foot frame and a quick-draw smile that in a span of 10 weeks had become a concave shell below PTSD eyes.

Fetching the laundry from the dryer provided Dorleen an excuse.

She pressed an ear against the basement bedroom door.

"Al? Are you okay?"

No answer.

She bought time emptying the dryer. Then she gently turned the knob, nudging open the door. The bed was empty. Al's feet were sticking out from the closet.



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GALEN FLETCHER

Sister Sheila (left) and mom Dorleen Ditty visit Al's grave a year after the memorial service when hundreds of shocked mourners came to pay their respects, including many city of Minneapolis workers.

They call me the working man

Suburban dreams carried Jim and Dorleen Ditty from northeast Minneapolis to Brooklyn Center. Jim was a union pipefitter, Dorleen a stay-at-home mom. They moved into their new home on Logan Avenue with two young daughters, Sheila and Debbie. Gender equity would arrive with the births of sons Allan and Richard.

In the 1960s, Brooklyn Center resembled present-day Ramsey. It was prime terrain for making forts and riding dirt bikes, which helped frame Al into a lumberjack of a young man who always seemed to roll with whatever, his wants amounting to KISS tickets and a Vikings Super Bowl win.

He'd inherit a blue-collar work ethic. After graduating from Anoka High, he worked as a laborer for a sign company, swiftly rising to foreman and overseeing 25 employees.

It was a decent job. But Al fancied a profession.

A hit-and-run accident in 1985 claimed sister Debbie. The 25-year-old single mom left behind a daughter, whom Dorleen, by then a divorcee, would adopt. Debbie's premature goodbye would teach Al that you can't wait around for life to happen.

Al was his niece's father figure, homework consultant, field trip chaperone, snack fixer, and suppertime cook. He relished the role.

"When I went through a divorce... he's whom I turned to," sister Sheila says. "After the split... Al was my on-call handyman. He was there when my son would have to write reports or interview somebody for school. He was there on the sidelines for his Orono High School soccer games and tennis matches."

Al applied to be a sanitation worker for the city of Minneapolis. Legions of others pined for the same gig. A lottery decided which names advanced to the next step in the hiring process. Al scored. He started as a garbage man in 1986.

"He was all smiling and so excited," says Sheila. "By working for the city, he talked about how he would earn a good living, a pension. How he was looking forward to the future. How he was going to be able to have a career."

Commendations came regularly, official and otherwise. He was recognized for excellence in 1994. A decade later, a representative from a 60-unit townhouse complex in Marcy Holmes wrote then-Minneapolis City Council Member Diane Hofstede to specifically call out Al for going out of his way to visit with the condo association and provide "answers to all our questions" concerning "garbage and recycling bins."

He called in sick just four days over three decades, and served as the president of his laborers union local. In 2015, he was promoted to foreman.

According to three fellow employees, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of talking to a reporter without city approval, Al's gentleness filtered into his professional life.

"Al cared about us people. He cared about us workers," says one. "He loved the city he worked for. He loved the people he worked with, and he always looked out for our safety."

No way out

September 2015 brought reasons for celebration. First came Al's 32nd anniversary with the city. Two days later, he turned 54 years old, meaning he was a year removed from early retirement eligibility.

"He'd mentioned moving to Las Vegas, living in one of those age-55 and older places," says Dorleen. "But I never thought he was serious about it. Work was everything to Al. When he wasn't working, he went up north to the cabins of co-workers and to sporting events" with Dave Herberholz, Minneapolis' director of Solid Waste and Recycling.

He read the Bible daily.

On November 15, two Minneapolis police officers shot and killed Jamar Clark. Turmoil invaded the city.

Protesters squatted outside the Minneapolis Police Fourth Precinct on Plymouth Avenue North. Molotov cocktails and rocks were hurled at officers. A dozen people appeared at the front door of Mayor Betsy Hodges' home, demanding she release video footage that might show whether Clark was handcuffed when he was shot.

Unbeknownst to Al, forces inside city government were conspiring to uncloak him. What had started as a few pissed-off cops had gained traction behind closed doors.

City Hall was a house divided. Some



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council members, like Cam Gordon and Lisa Bender, joined protesters. Blong Yang and council president Barb Johnson lobbied on behalf of neighborhood residents for an end to the demonstration.

Hodges navigated the crisis as an island, in frequent contact with Justice Department officials in Washington, D.C., seeking direction.

A lack of communication would eventually be flagged in a Department of Justice report. Hodges' methods, the feds noted, "likely contributed to... poor communication and inconsistent, uncoordinated leadership."

These issues would trickle down to sanitation workers.

In the wake of the demonstration, higher-ups were determined not to allow a long-term encampment, like those occurring during the Occupy protests a few years earlier. City workers began hearing rumblings about dismantling the camp.

The way garbage workers understood the whispers, the raid would occur in the early morning. Protestors would be given warning to pack up and leave. Officers in riot gear would clear out the area as firefighters extinguished fires and sanitation staff tossed everything else into a garbage truck. The whole operation would be over in 20 minutes.

But garbage workers hadn't been trained to enter hostile situations.

"We'd done cleanup after the I-35W Mississippi River bridge collapse in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood in 2007 and the North Side tornado in 2011," Al would write weeks later. But "our guys have never had training dealing with working in riots where I felt they could get hurt."

Safety wasn't the only worry.

"Al was concerned about us because half of us live up there in north Minneapolis, and they know all those people, and it would have been an all-out war if they'd gone in there," says one employee. "This was safety and them being neighbors. It was a real touchy situation at the time. A lot of anger, a lot of tempers up."

Al's notes from that week show he mentioned workers' concerns to Herberholz, his immediate boss. According to Dorleen, Al didn't want any sanitation workers to participate in the cleanup.

"But he told me Dave was telling him they didn't have a choice," she says.

When he left work Friday afternoon, Al didn't know if a weekend raid was a go. He'd soon find out.

A simple plan

According to city documents, the operation would involve three departments: fire, police, and public works.

"The cops were going to protect all the firefighters and everything like that," says a source inside city government with direct knowledge of the ops plan. "They'd put out the fires that were burning, and the Public Works people would come in.... Everyone was reassured the cops were there to protect the firefighting people and the public works people."

But those assurances didn't reach the sanitation department. Al believed that he, along with laborers Jay Lutz and Mitch Swanson, were being ordered into a danger zone armed with plastic bags.

Late at night on November 20, Al surfed the internet. He watched a YouTube video showing two masked men brandishing handguns, supposedly headed for the encampment. The men would later be identified as white supremacists heading to confront protesters.

In Al's mind, the stage was being set for violence. Believing that he had nowhere else to turn, he decided to summon outside help. At 9:59 p.m., he emailed KARE-11 TV.

"Black lives matter tip," read the subject line. Included in the message was a copy of the police department's plan. "This is going down Saturday and Sunday morning," he wrote.

Al would later explain his motive: "I feared for the health and safety of subordinate employees who were being sent into an unsafe work environment without adequate protection.... I felt if media cameras were present and filming, protesters would not be violent toward employees."

By midnight, police officials inside the Emergency Training Operations Facility on 37th Avenue Northeast were reading his email. Someone at KARE had sent it to police spokesperson Scott Seroka, a former reporter at the station. It included the tipster's AOL address.

(KARE President John Remes would only say that the station is still "investigating what may have happened with this story.")

Some cops were infuriated by the leak. After being informed of KARE's email, Chief Janee Harteau called off the raid, says a source with knowledge of the events inside the ops building.

Sometime during the night, Al received an email saying the raid was aborted.

"RE: Street Cleanup Strike Team," read the subject line.

"For many reasons," the email said, "this has been CANCELLED."

Two or more other raids were also planned and scotched, say city council members, one after another supposed leak from a mayor's aide. (Hodges' spokesman, Eric Fought, declined comment for this story.)

The missed opportunity didn't sit well with some inside City Hall, people with the power to make certain a tipster was going to pay.

Lake Harriet & Minnehaha Parkway











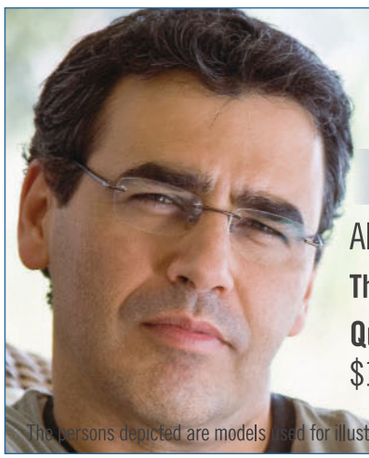
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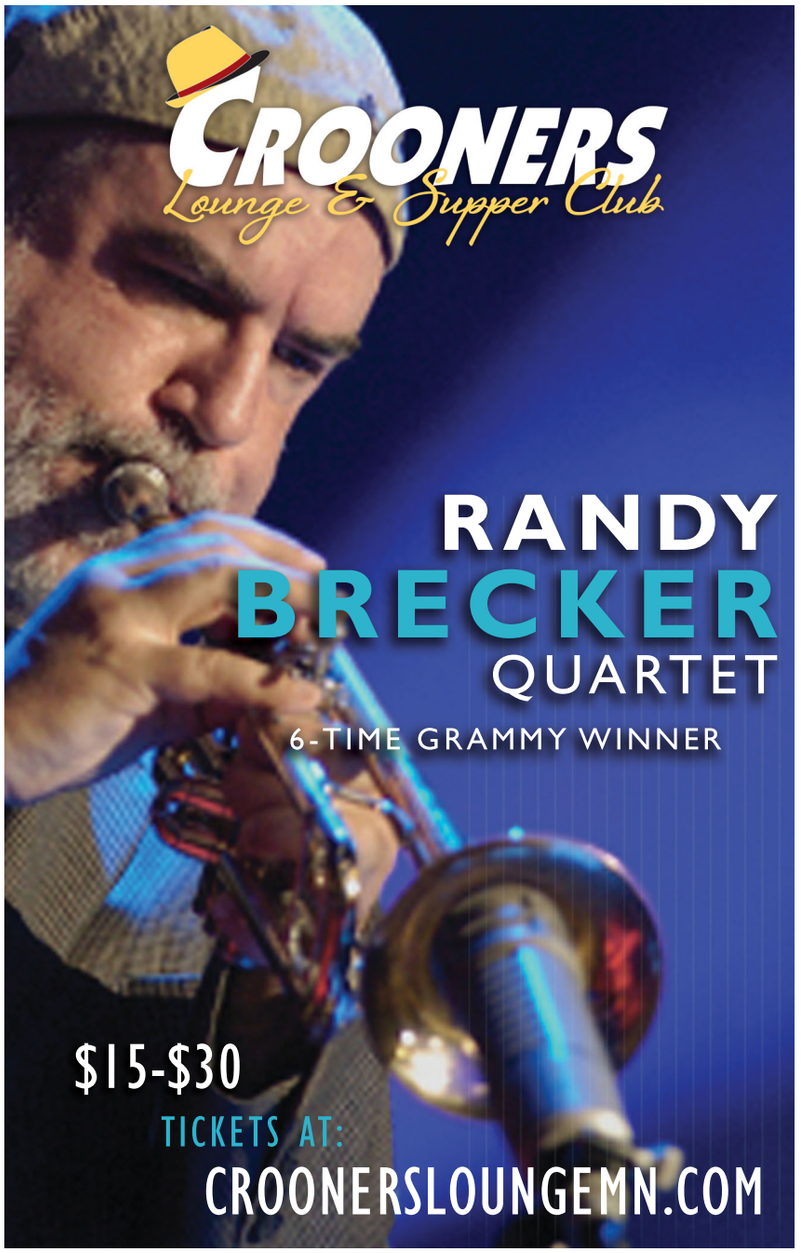
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COURTESY OF THE DITTY FAMILY

Al's wants were few: a Vikings Super Bowl win during his lifetime and retirement with a good pension after faithfully working decades for Minneapolis Public Works.

Al "was a nervous wreck for weeks and over Christmas," says Dorleen. "He was always worrying with it in the back of his mind. But once it got into the new year, I think he felt all of it was behind him and he could move on with life."

Unbeknownst to Al, forces inside city government were conspiring to uncloak him. What had started as a few pissed-off cops had gained traction behind closed doors.

Down and out in Brooklyn Center

On January 22, 2016, Dorleen saw Al pull into the driveway, wondering what he was doing home in the early afternoon.

"I had to turn in my keys and my cell phone and they made me go home," she recounts his words. "I'm under investigation, and I've been suspended from my job. I have no clue why. They won't tell me."

According to a letter dated that day, Deputy Director of Public Works Lisa Cerney had placed Al on "paid investigatory leave," the duration "undetermined."

When Sheila visited his Brooklyn Center home, she found her brother "in a daze."

Al didn't know what to do with himself. His co-workers were his social circle. Why hasn't Herberholz called to see if I'm all right? he wondered. Why hasn't anyone from Public Works called?

He wouldn't fare any better as the days passed. Family members knew things were bad when he stopped watching sports. He wasn't eating, not even French silk pie from Baker's Square, his favorite. A doctor would finger anxiety as the culprit behind his raging insomnia. He'd pass the days reading his Bible, pacing, and visiting Menard's, where he'd roam the aisles for hours.

City investigators asked about the email to KARE. He readily admitted to sending it, saying he feared for the safety of his workers.

"I sat in his bedroom with him, and said you're going to get your job back," Sheila says. "All he could think about is he didn't want to start over. He didn't think at his age he could."

Though vested in his pension, Al remained three years shy of the Rule of 90, which said a worker's age, added with years of service, must equal 90 years in order to collect a pension without penalty. That hit, along with taxes, would have whittled his monthly benefit by half, down to around $700, he calculated.

The weeks dragged, becoming months. Communications with the city came through his lawyer, Laura Spartz, who was angling to set up a meeting with various city officials. The meetings never happened, according to email chains between Spartz and Al. Despite Spartz's assurances he might be rehired in a demoted role through arbitration, Al's struggles amplified.

"I'm going nuts.... I... am full of anger and depressed," read a February email. "They all want to know why I'm not at work so this better get done this week. It's ridiculous.... I feel like I'm in prison."

Eight days later, he'd write Spartz, "I'm losing my mind.... Either get me back to work or they can fire me."

Al would soon get his answer.

The scapegoat

According to city rules, discipline "will normally be administered progressively." It can range from verbal warnings to termination.

Minneapolis spokesperson Casper Hill says the only prior instance of a city employee being cited for improper communication with the media happened in 2013. Sgt. Marvin Schumer was given a letter of reprimand.

Al's case would not receive the same kind of treatment.

On March 4, 2016, Al was at last called to a meeting with the city. He was fired.

According to the termination letter signed by Cerney and Steve Kotke, then head of Public Works, Al's leak had "jeopardized public safety and the safety of city employees, as well as caused adverse financial impact."

It also claimed that he had never discussed his concerns with superiors, and that his email "violated the ethical aspirations" of the city's employee code.

"He was devastated," says Sheila. "He couldn't believe it. They basically flat-out called him a liar."

Spartz recommended he look for a job while considering his next move, which included "appealing your termination."

Sheila made plans to come by the house over the weekend. They would map out a plan in which Al would write a letter to OSHA, saying how sanitation workers had been ordered into a situation for which they weren't trained. They'd also start looking for a new lawyer because "we weren't happy with the job Laura had been doing," says Sheila. "She wasn't upholding her end of the bargain. She'd say she'd do A, B, and C and she wouldn't. She didn't have my brother's best interest at heart. I truly believe that."

(Spartz declined comment for this story. Kotke, Herberholz, and Cerney directed interview requests to spokesperson Hill. The city "is unable to respond" to specific questions regarding Al Ditty, he says, citing "classified private personnel data." Likewise, police spokesperson Sgt. Catherine Michal declined comment, citing confidentiality rules.)

But three of Al's co-workers are unanimous in their judgment.

"We all think that Al got screwed over," says one. "They isolated the man.... He felt the city had really abandoned him and given him a bad deal.

"Al was a blue-collar guy, a working guy. If he knew something he would tell you. He wouldn't play no games with you. He was only looking out for his employees. Somebody had to be the scapegoat, so it had to be Al Ditty. They took everything away from him."

In the meantime, Al was spiraling into despair. Dorleen and Sheila had no idea how deep or how fast.

Unforgiven

The sight of Al's feet sticking out from the closet confused Dorleen at first. Panic sent her up the stairs to find her cell phone. She called Sheila and youngest son Ricky before hitting "9-1-1."

Ricky arrived before paramedics. Al had hanged himself and wasn't breathing. Ricky performed CPR. It didn't work. Al was dead.

Some 350 people, many of them city workers, started a week in late March by driving to Glen Haven Chapel in Crystal. A truck with the City of Lakes' script and sailboat logo was commandeered for the memorial. Most in attendance had no idea of Al's private battle until news of his death broke.

Strangers and some with familiar-sounding names volunteered their help to the family.

"Mom was told, I was told by all these people how they thought what happened to Al was wrong," Sheila says. "They said they'd help our family in any way they could. I understand now how scared they must be. If this could happen to Al, it could happen to any of them."

Spartz signed an agreement on behalf of Al's estate last summer with Human Resources Director Tim Giles. According to Sheila, the family never agreed to this. Regardless, it greased the wheels for Dorleen's modest beneficiary payout. It also meant "the merits" of Al's termination would "remain unresolved with no admission by either party."

The deal would freeze Al's termination in a permanent state of appeal. Hence, his personnel file is sealed.

This was for the best, Spartz explained to Dorleen in a letter. If Al's termination wasn't appealed, she wrote, his case would be closed, meaning it would become "public data. That means journalists or other interested parties could request the information and have it made available to them.... Once we get to mediation, the file will be secret."

The move, she told Al's mom, will protect "your privacy."

The autopsy report was less cryptic. Suicide, read the medical examiner's cause of death.

"My brother really died of a broken heart," Sheila says.

Weeks after the service, she and Dorleen uncovered, among Al's papers, a hand-scribbled note.

"Forgive me for my sin," he'd written. "Let them forgive me too."



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SAY HELLO TO HY-VEE

Exploring Minnesota's newest cult favorite grocery chain



Hy-Vee: Stores within stores at enticing prices

GRF

BY MECCA BOS

How often have you wished you could mash up the best parts of your local grocery stores and leave the not-so-nice parts in the dust?

Whole Foods is shiny and healthy, but each time you go, your receipt backs up the store's "Whole Paycheck" sobriquet.

You like Cub for the prices, but shopping in a room the size of a Home Depot can leave you cold.

The co-op is great for veg and organic meat, but sometimes you just need something simple, and they don't carry your brand of potato chips.

A grocery store chain new to the Twin Cities may hold the key for you.

Hy-Vee is an employee-owned chain that aims to get you anything (well, almost anything) you want out of a grocery store, but for about 20 percent less than you would pay at a higher-end outfit. No more running to one store for the inexpensive stuff, the other for the organic stuff, and the other for that hard-to-find brand of tahini.

The first Hy-Vee store was founded in 1930 in Beaconsfield, Iowa, and became employee-owned, with a profit-sharing plan and company stock for eligible employees, in 1960. Since its inception, the chain has grown to more than 240 supermarkets throughout the Midwest. The first store in the Twin Cities region opened in Oakdale in late 2015 and ever since, I've been hearing this refrain: "I love Hy-Vee!"

Indeed, the store has garnered something of a cult following. As the Twin Cities is poised to become its largest market, we went in for a closer look.

The first thing you may notice is that Hy-Vee has a restaurant, the Hy-Vee Market Grille. The grocery-store restaurant was once the exclusive domain of high-end stores like Byerly's, and even then, there was no alcohol. But at Hy-Vee Market Grille, you'll dine on the full gamut of casual American favorites (from Cobb salad to sushi to pizza) plus a glass of beer or wine if you please. Kids eat free on Tuesdays. The casual, affordable cafe is one way the grocery store seems to be asking and answering what's missing from grocery shopping. Judging by the many gentlemen bellied up to the bar on a recent Saturday afternoon at the Oakdale location, the answer is beer.

After deciding whether you'd like a fine beverage before grabbing your cart (there's also a quick-service coffee counter if you'd rather fuel your experience with caffeine), you begin your shopping at Hy-Vee in the typical manner — in the produce section.

But at the periphery of that produce section, sushi, Chinese takeout, and fresh pasta counters also compete for your attention. Sushi proved to be fresh-smelling and -tasting, avoiding any off-aroma reminiscent of the seal exhibit at Como Zoo.

Fresh linguine cooked up at home nicely al dente, and the counterperson pointed to the fully in-view pasta machine for proof that it's made on-site. We managed to bypass the Chinese family meals, but a dinner with four pints each of entree, two pints of rice, eight appetizer servings, and four fortune cookies goes for $30.

Back at the produce section, a pound of green beans landed in the cart for $1.99, and a pound of yellow potatoes for $1.28. The Oakdale Hy-Vee store stocked 125 organic produce items and 35 local ones in their first season.

Next: a cheese department to rival the one at your high-end grocer, where a cheesemonger knows the nuances of her Dutch goudas, and a separate charcuterie counter where a salumiere (yes, they have a salumiere) can guide you on the subtleties of Prosciutto di Parma, Prosciutto di San Daniele, and Prosciutto Toscano. Hy-Vee

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Fancy ham not your jam? Push on, Hy-Vee shopper. They've got Hormel 81 Classic Boneless, too, and a dozen other labels, including their own proprietary brand.

The bakery department is comprehensive. Loaves of bread in any variety from whole grain to cheesy jalapeño are also available by the half loaf, and can be sliced in customizable widths. Unicorn cakes and one with a puppy dog on its haunches await graduation-season frenzy, and monster cookies the size of your face await whatever occasion those do. Also find bread bowls for soup, Cheesecake Factory desserts by the slice, and waffle cone bowls, because don't you need those?

Scan the meat and seafood counter for substantial, red rib-eye steaks, live lobsters in the tank, king crab legs, sides of salmon, cherrystone clams, cod, and catfish. Organic and pasture-raised chickens are here, as well as commodity ones if you want them.

By this time, you'll feel as though you've been shopping in a store at once luxe yet within reach. The floors are not carpeted and the fixtures are not more regal than those in your own house, but if you need an Iberico ham from a hog finished on acorns, it can be yours, along with all of your General Mills favorites, on sale at five boxes for $10.

So far, so good.

But are these things enough to make Hy-Vee the talk of the grocery town? Just wait.

Round the bend and in the middle of the store you'll find what amounts to a miniaturized imports store, with shelves devoted to countries from Germany to Korea. Does it replace the need to shop the Asian grocer if you're cooking Vietnamese five nights weekly? Probably not. But if you're trying something new out of the cookbook, they'll have you covered here. Find rice bags the size of a mattress, and some fancy malted vinegar potato chips imported from Britain might make it into the cart, too — to heck with your normal brand.

At the far corner of the store, a dairy section competes with Walmart for price and variety. They must stock a hundred brands of yogurt and all the commodity cheese, eggs, and milk a large family with small children demands.

Beyond that, browse an entire natural foods store within the store, including a full department of gluten-free groceries and a separate section of organic meat and dairy. Local eggs from St. Croix Valley Community Farms are available in the commodity section, too. This is not a segregation system; Hy-Vee seems to aim for a grocery store experience to suit every type of shopper.

If you're a big-box person, the entire center of the store is there to please you. Right next to the pet store is a bulk candy section that stocks every flavor of Jelly Belly, and the toy section where you can pick up a pack of faux soul patches if you need them. You need them. Well, I needed them. Now I have them.

The final bill, including five high-end cheeses and two imported meats, two fresh pastas and a jar of premium marinara, three clamshells of sushi, one kombucha, two produce items, and multiple other items equaling groceries for the week, barely exceeded $100. Hy-Vee handily beats competitors, price-wise, in all departments including soul patches.

Do you have a whole day to spend at Hy-Vee? Then check out the florist, the liquor store, the clinic, the pharmacy, the dietitians, the culinary classroom (classroom fees are returned in store credit after class is taken), the dry cleaner, the postal service counter, and the mother's room if you happen to need a break.

Overwhelmed? Get a complimentary store tour.

And last but not least, head back to where you began at the Market Grille and join the dudes at the bar for a beer. Groceries thusly gathered, you've earned it.





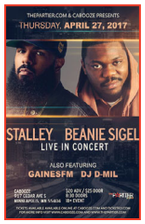




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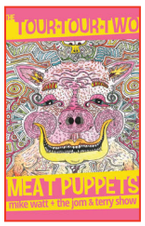
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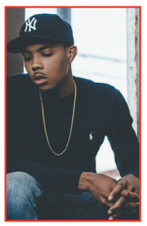


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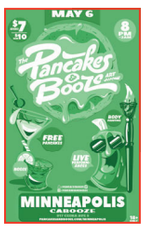
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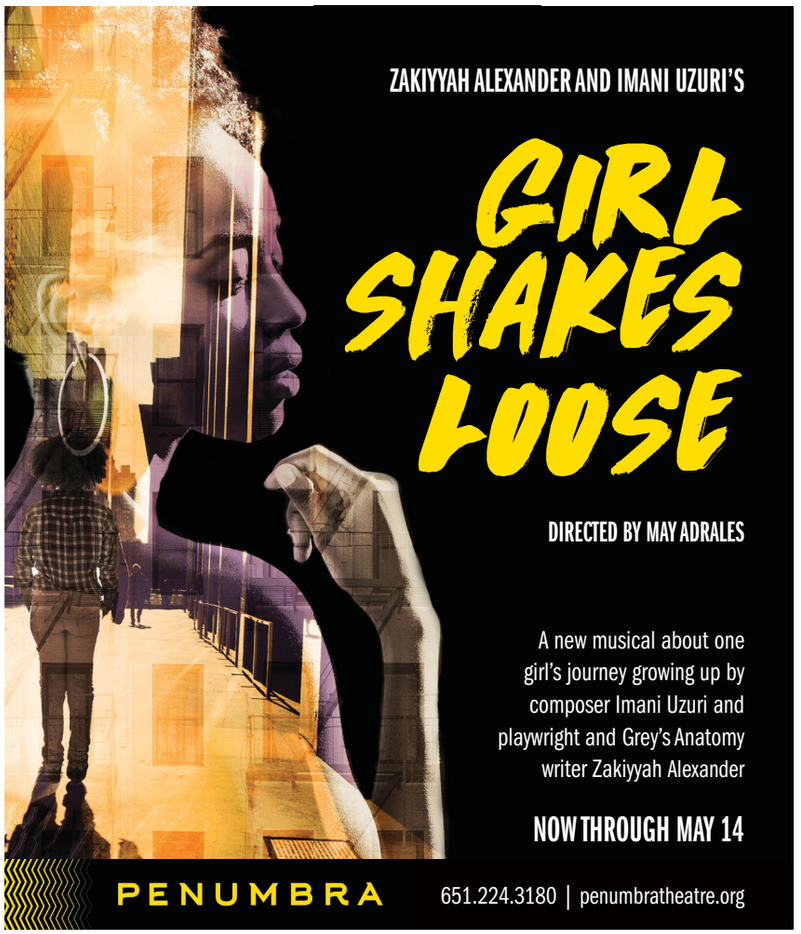
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6/6 ..... *CABOOZE & FIRST FLEET PRESENT* **24Hrs** 'NIGHTSHIFT TOUR'
6/23 ..... *CABOOZE & LN PRESENT* **Aaron Watson**
7/1 ..... *CABOOZE, FIRST AVE, & ROSE PRESENT* **Dirty Heads** W/ SOJA *PLAZA SHOW!*
7/15-16 ..... *CABOOZE & RIDEMN PRESENT* **X Games - Ride Block Party!** *PLAZA SHOW!* W/ LIVE STUNTS, MUSIC, VENDORS & MORE!
8/18 ..... *CABOOZE, FIRST AVE, & ROSE PRESENT* **Michael Franti & Spearhead** *PLAZA SHOW!* LOVE OUT LOUD TOUR W/ SATSANG
8/19 ..... *FAT TIRE PRESENTS* **Tour De Fat** feat. THE RECORD COMPANY *PLAZA SHOW!*

TICKET OUTLETS

THE JOINT BAR, ELECTRIC FETUS, DOWN IN THE VALLEY, DISCLAND, KNOW NAME RECORDS, MILL CITY SOUND





A LIST

FRIDAY Queer street art with Jeremy Novy **P. 24**

SATURDAY Craftstravaganza returns to the Fairgrounds **P. 26**

WEDNESDAY 4.26

BIKES

CRANKS AND DRANKS

TATTERSALL DISTILLING

This week, Handsome Cycles and the Grease Pit Bike Shop are coming together at Tattersall Distilling for a sweet, two-day happy hour. Hop on your bicycle and head over to the northeast Minneapolis hot spot. You'll score $5 drinks from the bar when you flash your helmet. Does your bike need maintenance? Whether you're nearing the end of 30 Days of Biking or preparing to ride this spring and summer, folks will be on hand to answer questions on repairs and upkeep, and must-have items like lights, racks, and baskets will be for sale. This two-day gathering is also a benefit party; if you have a bike in good shape that you'd like to donate to Free Bikes 4 Kidz, Handsome Cycles will say "thanks" with a $100 gift card to their shop. 4 to 11 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Free. 1620 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-584-4152. **Through Thursday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**



Artists make waves at the Saint Paul Art Crawl.

TERRY HASTINGS

THURSDAY 4.27

PARTY

CITY PAGES BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES PARTY 2017

ORCHESTRA HALL

City Pages has survived the publication of another Best Of issue. Now we're ready to go crazy and party it up with our readers. This year's celebration will be particularly funky, as Prince tribute band Chase and Ovation will pay homage to the Purple One, and DJ Shannon Blowtorch will spin tunes. Once again we'll be in the open and airy Orchestra Hall. Guests will be invited to get their grub on, as delicious treats from Sea Salt Eatery, Bar Luchador, Maya Cuisine, Ku'l Chocolates, the Lotus, Can Can Wonderland, and more will be served. Boozy cocktails will be mixed by Vikre Distillery, wine from Carlos Creek Winery will be poured, and beer from Fair State Brewing Cooperative will be plentiful. VIP tickets include early admission, free drinks during happy hour, and other fun schwag. To purchase tickets — $1 of each sale goes to Special Olympics Minnesota — visit bestof.citypages.com. 6 to 10 p.m.; 5 p.m. VIP. $30/$35 at the door; $60 VIP. 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-371-5656. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/FESTIVAL

ART IN BLOOM

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

The art of floral arrangement is once again celebrated at Art in Bloom, a four-day festival featuring over 165 pieces. Florists have taken works from Mia's collection as inspiration, reinterpreting paintings, sculptures, textiles, vases, and more through flora. There will be a variety of special happenings through Sunday, including guided tours, lectures, and workshops. Things kick off Wednesday with a preview benefit party at 5:30 p.m. (tickets start at $200). Thursday's Flowers After Hours is free and fun, with a runway show featuring models in flower garments, open galleries, and a cash bar from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday is family-friendly, with hands-on art activities, storytelling, and more from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many events are free; some are ticketed. Visit new.artsmia.org/art-in-bloom-2017 for a complete schedule. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

COMEDY

ROBERT KELLY

ACME COMEDY CO.

"I've definitely softened since I had a kid," says comedian Robert Kelly. "Growing up in Boston and coming up as a comedian there in that era, it was a very blue-collar comedy school. It's not a blue-collar thing now. It's more nerdy dudes." Kelly learned from some of the best. "When I was coming up it was Lenny Clarke, Steve Sweeney, and Denis Leary. If these guys weren't doing comedy, they'd be in a tollbooth or on a construction site somewhere." The list of Kelly's peers is also impressive: Patrice O'Neal, Bill Burr. "We were really aggressive. We were assholes," he laughs. In the early part of his career, his comedy was very instinctual, but then he realized he had to grow. "You learn to do comedy better," he says, "and you can tell what stinks, what's hack, how to tell a joke and put stuff together." He thinks if he hadn't succeeded in comedy, he would have been a teacher. "Probably an art teacher at a YMCA," he says. "Something where I would have summers off and living in some shithole. I wouldn't be married; just trying to bang girls and living for the weekend." But not drinking. "I got sober when I was 15, so I wouldn't be drugging or drinking. Probably going to AA dances on Fridays trying to get some." 18+. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. $15-$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

DANCE/SERIES

ARENA DANCES: CANDY BOX

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

As a resident company in the Southern Theater's Artshare program, ARENA Dances is sharing its performance slot with other dance makers and companies, providing a whole week of performances, informal showings, and workshops highlighting the wealth of talent in the local community. With *Candy Box*, Mathew Janczewski, artistic director of ARENA, says he's stepping into more of a curator role, sharing his own work as well as providing opportunities for other choreographers and troupes in what he hopes to be an annual event. *Candy Box* launches this Thursday. There'll be a workshop during the day with Jane Shockley, a happy-hour show at 5 p.m. with Tamara Ober, and sets by ARENA Dances and SuperGroup in the evening. Throughout the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ▶

7th St entry FIRST AVENUE

www.first-avenue.com | 701 First Avenue North, Minneapolis | 612-338-8388

BEST CONCERT VENUE (PALACE THEATRE), BEST CONCERT (LOCAL), BEST CLUB DJ, BEST PEOPLE WATCHING, BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT, BEST MUSIC RESIDENCY (TURF CLUB), BEST JUKEBOX (CLOWN LOUNGE) - CITY PAGES 2017

THE MAINROOM

FRIDAY, APRIL 28



SATURDAY, APRIL 29



MONDAY, MAY 1
TUESDAY, MAY 2



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3



FRIDAY, MAY 5



SATURDAY, MAY 6



FRIDAY, MAY 12



WEDNESDAY, MAY 17



FRIDAY, MAY 19



SATURDAY, MAY 20



SUNDAY, MAY 21



TUESDAY, MAY 23



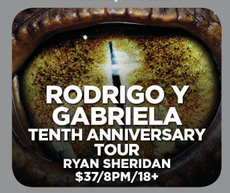
FRIDAY, MAY 26



THURSDAY, JUNE 1



FRIDAY, JUNE 2



SATURDAY, JUNE 3



FRIDAY, JUNE 9



SATURDAY, JUNE 10



THURSDAY, JUNE 15



THURSDAY, JUNE 29



MONDAY, JULY 3



SATURDAY, JULY 8



WEDNESDAY, JULY 19



FRIDAY, JULY 21



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6



FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PERFORMERS AND COMPLETE SHOW LISTINGS VISIT FIRST-AVENUE.COM
BUY TICKETS AT THE DEPOT TAVERN (11AM - 1AM SUN-THURS, AND 11AM-2AM FRI & SAT), ETIX.COM, OR BY CALLING 1-800-514-3849.
VISIT FIRST-AVENUE.COM/OUTLETS FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF LOCAL TICKET OUTLETS.

FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

8/10 TAKING BACK SUNDAY *w/* EVERY TIME I DIE, ALL GET OUT *18+*
8/15 SHAKEY GRAVES *w/* DAVID RAMIREZ *18+*
8/22 SIMPLE PLAN 'NO PADS, NO HELMETS....JUST BALLS' 15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR *w/* SET IT OFF, PATENT PENDING *18+*
9/13 X 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR FEATURING ALL ORIGINAL MEMBERS (EXENE/JOHN/BILLY/DJ) *18+*
9/29 JUDAH & THE LION - GOING TO MARS TOUR *18+*
10/01 FUTURE ISLANDS *18+*
10/20 RON POPE *w/* AGES & AGES *18+*
12/01 MOGWAI *18+*

7TH ST ENTRY

4/26 SUZIE TOUR KICKOFF *w/* MURF, CHALK *18+*
4/27 STOP DROP ROLAND FT. DWYNELL ROLAND, DEVON REASON WITH TRAVIS GORMAN, JUICE LORD, DJ FUNDO, SPECIAL GUESTS TBA *18+*
4/28 FLINT EASTWOOD *w/* MICHIGANDER, ASTRAL SAMARA *18+*
4/29 LYDIA AINSWORTH *w/* DEM YUUT, ERIC MAYSON *18+*
4/30 2BECOME1: DICK VALENTINE AND MARK MALLMAN *w/* MINNIE/BLUNTZ *18+*
5/01 WHITE REAPER *w/* NO PARENTS *18+*
5/02 SAM OUTLAW *w/* MICHAELA ANNE *18+*
5/03 LEWIS DEL MAR *w/* ANNA WISE *18+*
5/04 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE *w/* BABYLON *18+*
5/05 OVERCOATS *w/* YOKE LORE *18+*
5/06 MALCOLM LONDON *w/* MINA MOORE, TASHA *18+*
5/07 MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ OF DELTA SPIRIT *w/* DAVID RAMIREZ *18+*
5/08 FROTH *w/* THE COAX *18+*
5/09 PILE *w/* GNARWHAL, DOUBLE GRAVE *18+*
5/10 LEIF VOLLEBEKK *18+*
5/11 SKATING POLLY *w/* KITTEN FOREVER, TONY PEACHKA *18+*
5/12 CHARLY BLISS *w/* STRANGE RELATIONS, SEE THROUGH DRESSES *18+*

TURF CLUB

4/26 LIFTING A FINGER ALBUM RELEASE SHOW *w/* THE WAYWARD MCCOYS *21+*
4/28 CHRIS BARTELS 'MYTHS AND MOLD' RELEASE SHOW *w/* GRAND COURRIERS, A PIANO IN EVERY HOME *21+*
4/29 XTC: AN ALL STAR TRIBUTE | SENSES WORKING OVERTIME 5 *21+*
4/30 TOMMY KEENE *w/* ADAM LEVY, IVAN JULIAN *21+*
5/02 POND *w/* KIRIN J CALLINAN *21+*
5/03 KINKY FRIEDMAN - THE RESURRECTED TOUR *w/* BRIAN MOLNAR *21+*
5/04 FRANKIE LEE AND FRIENDS, SAM CASSIDY, THE PERSON & THE PEOPLE - GARDENS KILL CANCER *w/* SPECIAL GUESTS TBA IN THE CLOWN LOUNGE *21+*
5/05 TROUT STEAK REVIVAL AND THE BROTHERS COMATOSE *21+*
5/05 DERBY DAY PARTY AT THE TURF CLUB *(NO COVER/2PM) 21+*
5/09 THE BLASTERS *w/* THE DELTA BOMBERS *21+*
5/10 THE WILD REEDS *w/* BLANK RANGE, SUPERIOR SIREN *21+*
5/11 NICK JORDAN, K.RAYDIO, 26 BATS!, RADIOCHURCH *21+*
5/12 NEIL HAMBURGER *21+*
5/13 KIND COUNTRY EP RELEASE PARTY *w/* GINSTRINGS, GRASS FED MULE, THE STEELHEAD STRINGERS *21+*
5/14 NICK THUNE - PROUD OF MYSELF TOUR *w/* EMILY HELLER *21+*
5/15 WHITEHORSE *21+*
5/16 DIRTY BOURBON RIVER SHOW *21+*
5/17 SLEEP STUDY AND ANTHONY RUPTAK *w/* KYLE LUTZ, SABYRE RAE *21+*

For show announcements, updates, set times, giveaways, and more:
@FIRSTAVENUE /FIRSTAVENUE @FIRSTAVENUE FIRST-AVENUE

UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



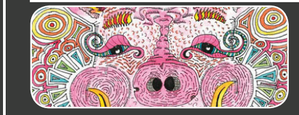
THURSDAY, APRIL 27
Go 96.3 and City Pages present
TYCHO
w/ BEACON
at PALACE THEATRE
$29.50/7:30PM/18+



SUNDAY, APRIL 30
89.3 The Current presents
HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF
w/ RON GALLO
at FINE LINE
$16/7:30PM/18+



TUESDAY, MAY 2
89.3 The Current presents
SLOWDIVE
w/ JAPANESE BREAKFAST
at PALACE THEATRE
GA FLOOR & GA BALCONY: $25/$30 DOS
RESERVED LOGE: $40/$45 DOS/7PM/18+



THURSDAY, MAY 4
MEAT PUPPETS and
mike watt + the jom & terry show
w/ PORCUPINE
at THE CABOOZE
$17/$20/7PM/18+



TUESDAY, MAY 9
89.3 The Current and City Pages present
THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN
w/ THE COBBS
at PALACE THEATRE
GA FLOOR & GA BALCONY: $30/$35 DOS
RESERVED LOGE: $45/$50 DOS/7PM/18+



TUESDAY, MAY 9
LEWIS WATSON
at TRIPLE ROCK
$14/6PM/ALL AGES



TUESDAY, MAY 16
93X presents
FLOGGING MOLLY
w/ DYLAN WALSHE
at PALACE THEATRE
$38/7PM/18+



SATURDAY, MAY 20
JMSN
w/ QUIÑ, ALCORDO
at TRIPLE ROCK
$13/$15/8PM/18+



WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
WAVVES
w/ KINO KIMINO
at TRIPLE ROCK
$20/7PM/18+

5/26 Ho99o9 *at Triple Rock*
6/02 ZZ WARD *at Fine Line*
6/04 COM TRUISE AND CLARK *at Fine Line*
6/09 CLOUD CULT *at Northrop*
6/10 OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW PERFORMING 'BLONDE ON BLONDE' *at Palace Theatre*
6/12 TUXEDO *at Fine Line*
6/14 JAMESTOWN REVIVAL *w/* COLTER WALL *at Fine Line*
6/17 AT THE DRIVE IN *w/* LE BUTCHERETTES *at Palace Theatre*
6/17 SLOW DANCER *w/* SOCCER MOMMY *at Icehouse*
6/23 FREDDIE GIBBS "YOU ONLY LIVE 2WICE TOUR" *at Fine Line*

DO YOU HAVE ICHTHYOSIS?

Volunteers, ages 12 years and older are wanted for an investigational drug research study that will compare topical study medications for ichthyosis.

- All participants are seen by a board certified Dermatologist
- No cost study related evaluations
- Qualified participants will be reimbursed up to $200 for time and travel
- Parental (or legal guardian) consent is required for all participants under the age of 18.

Minnesota Clinical Study Center

Steve Kempers, MD
The Minnesota Clinical Study Center

7205 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432

For further information call:
763-502-2941



ARENA Dances launches a new series.

GALEN HIGGINS

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ▶

week, additional happenings include performances from Kaleena Miller Dance, and Erin Drummond with Sharon Picasso, plus featured performances by ARENA Dances, SuperGroup, and Robin Stiehm's Dancing People Company in rotation. You can check out the Southern Theater's website, southerntheater.org, for details on who is performing when. $20-$24. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. **Through May 6 —SHEILA REGAN**

FRIDAY 4.28

THEATER

110 IN THE SHADE

THEATRE IN THE ROUND

Lizzie Curry is a hardscrabble Texan struggling to keep her family's cattle ranch from going under during a drought. Despite her determination, the future is looking dire. Then an alleged rainmaker arrives with promises to produce precipitation for a reasonable price. Thus the stage is set for a lively romance wherein the self-reliant Lizzie finds herself reluctantly drawn to a man who initially seems little more than a charismatic huckster. But nothing is disingenuous about the emotions drawn to the surface, as Lizzie recognizes her long-repressed yearnings and her fears of becoming a lonely Western spinster. Coupling a book by N. Richard Nash (based upon his own play, *The Rainmaker*) with the musical arrangements of Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones (best known as the collaborative team behind *The Fantasticks*), *110 in the Shade* offers a show with homespun charm that should prove particularly well suited for the inviting TRP stage. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. $24. 245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-3010. **Through May 21 —BRAD RICHASON**

ART/LGBTQ

JEREMY NOVY PRESENTS: QUEER STREET ART, FIGHTING FOR LEGITIMACY

AMALGAMATED MPLS

Stencil graffiti art can be used to make a political statement, to add art in unexpected places, and to beautify public spaces. Bay Area-based artist Jeremy Novy has been demonstrating this with his stencil work, which has popped up on sidewalks, on street signs, and in public restrooms. His pieces often come in multiples: Koi fish swim on concrete, birds and butterflies swarm the side of a building, and naughty hand signals cover a pole. When he's not working with clusters he's celebrating duos, which include cackling drag queens, crushed PBR cans, and bearded dudes kissing. The artist will be in town this weekend for a two-day show. Friday night's party includes live music by Venus de Mars. A stencil workshop will be hosted by Novy during the day. Call for more info and to sign up (tickets are $60). 7 p.m. to midnight Friday. Free. 720 Central Ave. NE, Unit 1, Minneapolis; 612-998-3361. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART

MINNEAPOLIS ART LENDING LIBRARY SPRING LENDING EVENT

FOLWELL RECREATION CENTER

At the Minneapolis Art Lending Library, you can check out art for free, just like you would a book. At



STEVEN LANG

this spring gathering, you'll have over 100 artworks to peruse, including photographs, paintings, and sculptures. Should you see something you like, you can sign it out and take it home for three weeks. Think of it as an easy way to refresh your place for spring. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. 1615 Dowling Ave. N., Folwell Park, Minneapolis; 612-521-2100. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/FESTIVAL

SAINT PAUL ART CRAWL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Warmer weather means it's the perfect time for bopping around Lowertown and its surrounding neighborhoods for the semi-annual Saint Paul Art Crawl. Breeze through studio and gallery spaces and enjoy a variety of entertainment. There will be live music, spoken word and poetry, flamenco dancing, and participatory fun such as swing and tango classes, scavenger hunts, and Tibetan rituals. The main festival stomping ground is Lowertown, where Tilsner Artists' Co-op, the Lowertown Lofts Artist Cooperative, 262 Studios, and Northern Warehouse will be filled to the brim with art and activity. You may also want to check out art at Union Depot or grab a snack at Black Dog Cafe. A few venues on University Avenue in the Creative Enterprise Zone arts district are also part of the celebration; stop by the Midway Triangle Building and Interact Center for the Performing Arts, and make a pit stop at Can Can Wonderland. East Side Freedom Library, over in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood, will also be hosting art and happenings. For maps and more info, visit www.saintpaulartcrawl.org. 6 to 10 p.m. Friday; noon to 8 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free. **Through Sunday —SHEILA REGAN**

DANCE

THE RIGHT HERE SHOWCASE: APRIL SELLERS DANCE COLLECTIVE AND BEN KREILKAMP

JSB TEKBOX

The Right Here Showcase is a juried mini-festival showcasing Minnesota-based mid-career contemporary performing artists. The first weekend features the April Sellers Dance Collective and theater artist Ben Kreilkamp alternating between the 7:30 and 9 p.m. slots. What a pairing these two witty and transgressive artists make. Inspired by female icons like singer Janis Joplin, prize fighter Ronda Rousey, and various TV sportscasters, Sellers' *The Animal Corridor* creates a darkly humorous, post-apocalyptic world that moves explosively toward a new gender utopia. Kreilkamp's *Memory & Desire* reflects on past amorous relationships, incorporating biographical material as well as fictional elements. Chris Strouth and Taja Will take the stage the following weekend. 7:30 and 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday. $10-$30 suggested donation. 528 Hennepin Ave., the Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts, Minneapolis; 612-206-3636. **Through May 7 —LINDA SHAPIRO**

LITERARY

SARAH MANGUSO

MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS

Imagine the most prophetic, poetic, and unflinchingly honest tweets you've ever seen compiled into a slim, blue book. That's what Sarah Manguso's *300 Arguments* from Graywolf Press will remind many readers of. "You might as well start by confessing your greatest shame. Anything else would just be exposition." "Worry is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ▶









PSORIASIS?

Minnesota Clinical Study Center is conducting an investigational topical medication research study for adults with plaque psoriasis.

We are looking for participants 18 and over who have stable moderate to severe psoriasis. Qualified participants will receive compensation for their participation.

For further information call us at 763-502-2941

Minnesota Clinical Study Center

Steve Kempers, MD
Minnesota Clinical Study Center
7205 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432



TU returns with new and familiar dances.

COURTESY OF TU DANCE

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

impatience for the next horror." "Perfect happiness is the privilege of deciding when things end. But then you have to find a new happiness." Manguso's arguments speak to mortality, anxiety, depression, heartbreak, and motherhood. Her blatant truth-telling is addictive; readers will find it difficult not to devour these 90 pages filled with wisdom, witticisms, and humor in one sitting. Written initially as a diversion from another work-in-progress, Manguso felt the need for completion, even if only in a couple of sentences. "For the longest time, it wasn't actually a book," she says. "It was just a bad habit that I was indulging in while I was trying to write a different book." That bad habit turned into a gift for readers with short attention spans seeking meaning. 7 p.m. Free. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. **—ERICA RIVERA**

SATURDAY 4.29

BEER

BREWS & BUSES: ST. PAUL BREWERY BUS CRAWL

UNION DEPOT

While new breweries can be found all around Minneapolis, St. Paul has quietly caught up both in number and quality. The city has one of the state's oldest brewpubs (Great Waters), one of the largest and most award-winning breweries (Summit), and beer businesses located in some of the coolest historic buildings (Flat Earth, Lake Monster). This weekend, GetKnit invites beer lovers to get on a bus and ride to breweries to sample the many hops and barley flavors of our capital city. A sister event to the summertime Rails and Ales, this tour of 11 St. Paul beer makers is more than a pub crawl. It includes two free pints, live entertainment, access to one-off beers, random prizes, and more. Early drink tickets are sold out, but later check-in times are still available. Tickets also score you a Metro Transit pass to and from the Union Depot. For more info, visit getknitevents.com/brews-buses. 21+. 11:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. $55. 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul; 651-202-2700. **—LOREN GREEN**

DANCE

TU DANCE

ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

This TU Dance concert is an embarrassment of riches. New York-based Ronald K. Brown, known for his fusion of African and modern dance and his "spiritual elasticity," premieres "Through This Light," a work that features traditional music by Conjunto Folklorico Nacional de Cuba and other world-music artists. TU's artistic co-director Uri Sands reprises his 2016 "Matter," a searing work responding to violence and racism. Kyle Abraham's "Candle" and Gioconda Barbuto's "FOOTPRINT" complete this dynamite program. The best reason to go is the inimitable TU dancers, whose extreme virtuosity and stylistic range are matched only by their emotional depth. 7:30 p.m. $22-$42. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222. **—LINDA SHAPIRO**

COMEDY

MARC MARON

PANTAGES THEATRE

Marc Maron has worn many hats in his comedy career: comedian, actor, radio host, TV host, podcaster, and sitcom star. Last year, he decided to bring his self-titled TV series to a close. However,

he continues to work on his two big passions, standup and podcasting. The latter invigorated the former, and he is recognized as one of the medium's pioneers. As his show remains popular, podcasting as a whole still seems to be teetering on the brink of mainstream acceptance. "I guess it really comes down to who's going to hang on," he says from his home in Los Angeles. "There are podcasts that are fine, but how do you make a living at it?" Maron has done just that, but he isn't sure if there is a business model that will work for all podcasters. "Everyone's got to answer those questions for themselves. Anyone can do it; it really depends on what you want out of it." He points out that he had nothing invested in his podcast when he started, nor did he have any expectations. "I didn't see it as means to make a living or even sell tickets. I saw it as something I had to do, but our growth kind of coincided with the growth of the medium." 7 and 10 p.m. $38. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. **—P.F. WILSON**

THEATER

SWEET LAND, THE MUSICAL

HISTORY THEATRE

Drawing on Minnesota history for an example of how bigotry influences families and communities, the History Theatre is presenting *Sweet Land, the musical*, a new adaptation of the critically acclaimed 2006 feature film (which was based on the short story "A Gravestone Made of Wheat" by Minnesota author Will Weaver). Set in rural Minnesota shortly after the close of WWI, the wistful storyline involves Olaf, a Norwegian immigrant farmer who agrees to marry a woman from Norway sight unseen. To Olaf's surprise, his arranged bride, Inge, actually hails from Germany, a country whose vilified status as a wartime enemy has cast widespread suspicion, if not outright derision, upon anyone of said nationality. Despite social disapproval, Olaf and Inge forge the bonds of an improbable romance while working the unforgiving land. Portraying the central roles are Robert Berdahl and Ann Michels, both of whom have fine-tuned their parts during a lengthy workshop process alongside much of the returning cast and crew. Perrin Post also handles the direction with choreography going to Joe Chvala of Flying Foot Forum fame. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. $25-$52. 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul; 651-292-4323. **Through May 28 —BRAD RICHASON**

ART/GALLERY

SKULLS ART SHOW

STUDIO PAYNE



STEPHANIE FRIEST

The fluid meaning of skulls in artwork, signage, and communication allows for myriad interpretations. Depending on the context, a skull can serve as a warning for poison, a reminder of loved ones lost, a piece of cheesy Halloween decor, a metaphor for death and rebirth in tarot cards, or a symbol for groups that include pirates, biker gangs, and rock bands. At this exhibition, emerging artists will celebrate that magical thing that helps holds our eyes, hair, and brain in place. See the tributes, and toast to the most iconic bone in our bodies with a beer at the opening reception from 5 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, April 29. Free. 1129 Payne Ave., St. Paul; 651-230-7767. **Through May 26 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART

CRAFTSTRAVAGANZA

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Just in time for spring, Craftstravaganza is returning to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Get ready for some delightful twee overload, as makers will offer a variety of wares for any gifting needs, be it for a pet, child, boyfriend, or mother. Or just treat yourself. There will be snarky cross-stitch work, gorgeous wood-bound journals, colorful and fluffy stuffed monster plushies, and ceramics festooned with skeletons and roses. Shop for makeup, candles, home decor, and more. For a complete list of vendors, visit craftstravaganza.com. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. 1265 Snelling Ave., St. Paul; 651-288-4400. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**



CITY PAGES

BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES PARTY

LIVE MUSIC FEAT.

Prince-Endorsed tribute band

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AN AMAZONIA OF THE MIND

The Lost City of Z charts fertile new territory for a master filmmaker



AIDAN MONAGHAN / AMAZON STUDIOS & BLEECKER STREET

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

It's sometimes said of the current age that we're too old to explore Earth and too young to explore space. We've been to Machu Picchu and the moon, but what of those worlds we've dreamed about but will never know?

James Gray returns to a time when maps still had blank spaces in *The Lost City of Z*, an account of Percy Fawcett's life based on David Grann's book about the British explorer. This kind of material is uncharted territory for the gifted writer/director, who takes to it like an intrepid captain setting out for the new world.

His days of *Anarchy* now behind him, Charlie Hunnam here represents a particularly British form of order in the leading role: the soldier-turned-explorer circa the early 1900s. Fawcett is tasked with traveling from England to Bolivia on a mapping mission, a quest he's aided in by a small team of fellow countrymen led by Henry Costin (Robert Pattinson, bearded and never better), a few locals, and his own wherewithal.

Amazonia may be untouched by the king's majesty, but that's only more cause for the thin red line separating civilization and savagery to bring it into the 20th century.

No one ever goes downriver in the movies without both losing and finding some part of himself, and so it is here. Fawcett finds something else as well: traces of an ancient city among the trees, snakes, and piranha.

Gray's previous films, like the masterful *We Own the Night* and *The Immigrant*, have all taken place on a much smaller scale in New York City. Gray is often called a classicist, a label that's reductive but also accurate enough. Here, in a story that finds its hero traveling back and forth between Europe and South America, he's made a film that feels like a relic of a bygone era — as well as a small treasure.

Few back in England are convinced that Fawcett has found anything at all. To believe in this supposed city, which he calls Z, is to believe that civilized society predates England. This is its own kind of blasphemy.

As with any explorer worth his salt, the film's reach occasionally exceeds its grasp. Taking place over decades, *The Lost City of Z* isn't a deep dive into any one place or time so much as its hero's increasingly obsessed mind. When he returns from World War I wounded and temporarily sightless, Fawcett at first seems fine. It's only when he's incorrectly told that he'll never be able to return to Amazonia that he begins to weep. His wife and children, none of whom he's seen in years, are all at his side.

"Your soul will never be quiet until you find this new place," a mystic had said to Fawcett during his last day on the front. Was it his family he thought of as chlorine gas clouded his airway and he lost consciousness? Or was it the city he knows in his heart to be waiting for him on the other side of the world? Darkness has entered his heart, and soon he'll enter it.

THE LOST CITY OF Z
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THEATER

SHAKE IT UP

Penumbra's first show under Sarah Bellamy is a charmer



ALLEN WEEKS

BY JAY GABLER

With *Girl Shakes Loose*, Penumbra Theatre officially enters a new era: After a multi-year transition, Sarah Bellamy is stepping into the role of artistic director as her predecessor (and father), Lou Bellamy, becomes artistic director emeritus. The show that marks the change is *Girl Shakes Loose,* a world premiere from a creative team led by women of color. The story features a young woman adrift, searching for her anchor.

Girl Shakes Loose is billed as a musical, but with its nearly continuous string of powerfully performed songs, it might almost be called a soul opera. The music is by Imani Uzuri, a boundary-breaking composer and singer; Zakiyyah Alexander, who has both stage and TV credits, wrote the book. Both contribute lyrics, incorporating verse by revered poet Sonia Sanchez.

In a program note, Sarah Bellamy writes that the lead character — an unnamed "Girl," played by Alexis Sims — is "one we rarely see in American theater." That's certainly true, but she starts out in some familiar territory: young and restless in New York City. She's an underemployed but "Overqualified Black Girl," as one song puts it. She has just fled the Bay Area, bitterly disappointed by the demise of her startup business and a romantic relationship with Ella (Tatiana Williams), recounted in flashback. The Girl also dates men, though it's clear that the high-octane charmer Barry (Lamar Jefferson) is no potential soulmate.

Learning that her grandmother has died, the Girl heads back to her Georgia hometown, and it's here that the show really finds its grip. The up-tempo dance numbers recede to make way for a series of haunting duets, including a pair with the Girl's old flame Eddie (Kory Pullam) and a stirring song with her mother (Thomasina Petrus), who's still overcoming her resentment at the Girl's skipping town. The three-act musical concludes with the Girl's return to California, where she's determined to make another go of it with Ella.

Under the direction of May Adrales, the nine-member cast easily fills the Penumbra's compact stage — especially once Karen L. Charles' choreography kicks in. Set designer Vicki Smith keeps the furnishings to a minimum. Context and comment are provided by Kathy Maxwell's projections on the set's walls, with panels that rotate to reflect geographic transitions. A turntable in the stage rotates not for stunts, but to reflect the Girl's unsettled spirit.

Uzuri's music ranges widely, and never feels bound by convention: Songs go where the story needs them to go, rather than straining for effect or artificial resolution. The Girl is an intensely demanding role for Sims, who follows Sanford Moore's hidden band capably from funk to gospel to balladry. She glows with both intelligence and sensuality, two qualities that are often signaled but rarely embodied in musical theater.

Girl Shakes Loose draws you in, first with sheer charm and then with its patient exploration of a complex character at a pivotal point on her journey. It's a rare, and moving, experience.

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KATIE KOHLBECK

32, DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR FOR MIND BODY SOLUTIONS

What are you wearing?
Dress by Brooklyn Industries, Diba boots from DSW, belt from a small shop somewhere in Sydney, Australia, bracelets from Moxie Malas.

Describe your style:
Ranges from urban to hippie, but mostly casual and comfortable.

Favorite outfit to go dancing in?
Anything light that allows me to move easily while staying cool and comfortable in a crowd.



JANET HUSBANDS

51, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

What are you wearing?
Victoria Beckham-inspired dress from DHgate, Franco Sarto boots from Macy's, MOD handbag and charm necklace from the UK, Kate Spade glasses, earrings from Patina, bracelet from Claire's.

Describe your style:
Classic and elegant with a touch of Carnaby Street.

Who are your style icons?
Audrey Hepburn, Twiggy, Princess Diana, Sarah Jessica Parker.



CONOR CALLAGHAN

26, IT SECURITY

What are you wearing?
Thrift store jacket, Lee chinos, Aldo boots, and a Warriors in Pink bandana.

Describe your style:
Functional, bikeable, quirky, colorful, and sometimes professional.

Who are your style icons?
David Bowie, David Beckham, Kanye.

Favorite outfit to go dancing in?
This one, or anything with some stretch in the legs for some moves.



KATIE THOMAS

34, FIRST-GRADE TEACHER AT NORMANDALE FRENCH IMMERSION ELEMENTARY

What are you wearing?
Top from Primp, Paige jeans from Statement Boutique, booties from Nordstrom, Foley & Corinna purse.

Describe your style:
Whimsical, bohemian, and comfortable.

Who are your style icons?
Audrey Hepburn, my sister, Emily Haines, Stevie Nicks, Natalie Portman.

Favorite outfit to go dancing in?
Leggings, heels, and a funky tunic.

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IN GOOD SPIRITS

How songwriter Dustin Tessier remade himself as Timbre Ghost

BY ERICA RIVERA

Dustin Tessier doesn't want to be defined by his recovery. But to explain how the Duluth indie rocker began his new project, Timbre Ghost, requires a dive into the story of his addiction.

Tessier hit rock bottom in 2011, due in part to the breakup of his previous band, Lazer Forever. The threesome, formed in 2004, had released two albums but mostly toiled in obscurity. For Tessier, who had cut his teeth on the same Duluth scene that produced Low, Trampled by Turtles, and Actual Wolf, the band's outsider status was frustrating.

"I was still really wanting to do something with music but being really disgusted and getting really sad," Tessier says. "It was a whole continuum of negative emotion. 'Why doesn't anybody care? Am I not good enough?' Just kind of hating the whole thing."

Tessier was 13 when he first started meeting other musicians in his hometown of Duluth, accumulating skills and writing songs. In high school, he played in the band the Jiffy Toast Connection and hung out at Recycla-Bell, an old telephone building turned into an all-ages club. "It's got this local folklore surrounding it," Tessier says. "It was a great place to have punk rock shows, where all the weirdos from all the high schools in town would get together and not feel jaded for about three and a half hours or so."

By the turn of the century, Duluth was bustling. Eric Pollard and Dave Simonett would soon break into the mainstream, and the Homegrown Music Festival was born. "It had gone beyond people picking up a guitar and learning how to play 'Smoke on the Water' or a Nirvana song," Tessier says. "People started crafting what they did with their instruments, being a little bit more mindful, and writing their own songs. It was an interesting time when everybody was very young and really fresh but all kind of centered around the same scene."

But Tessier failed to find his niche. In 2002, he moved down to the Twin Cities and would eventually form Lazer Forever with fellow songwriter Clint Boylan. After six years of playing to little fanfare, though, the band members had other goals in mind: grad school, a real job, starting a family.



Dustin Tessier

BRIAN BRUZEK

"Our timing got kind of funky in terms of maintaining a band schedule," Boylan explains. "I think it ended the best way it could have. It was mutual and we all felt it was the right time to do that."

In the band's absence, an identity crisis arose for Tessier. Music wasn't just a part of his life — it was an all-or-nothing proposition. And without Lazer Forever, he felt like nothing. Drinking, a daily habit since 2006, increasingly filled the void. "I had become acutely aware at every waking moment of my life that I needed to stop. I was chronically depressed. My anxiety was crippling," he says. "There were countless times where I held my cell phone in my hand and thought, 'Who can I call?' but I was so overwhelmed."

In March 2011, Tessier 'fessed up about his addiction to his wife of three years. "It was a transformative moment for me," he says. "I felt incredibly liberated. I felt this weight lifted off of me that I had a chance to come clean. But unfortunately, it was the nail in the coffin [for our marriage]."

That month, Tessier entered a six-week intensive outpatient treatment program and began attending 12-step meetings. Recovery, he learned, was an individual process, not a one-size-fits-all solution, and he wanted to work in alcohol and drug counseling. "It made so much sense," Tessier says. "I've got the experience on one side of it. Why don't I go to school and get the counseling experience?"

After he began working as a chemical dependency counselor, though, his idealism soon faded. "The field itself is meaningful, but abstinence-based treatment, which is still a pretty popular model, is unrealistic in most cases," Tessier says. "It's a revolving door. There's a lot of recidivism."

Tessier found that genuine, one-on-one relationships were more effective than simply dispensing 12 steps. "What really works for me is having time to be human around somebody else and watching them come out of their shell," he says. "That's when a person can start having insight, when that block is gone."

He soon left the treatment field to become a mental health practitioner, and also reduced his workload to leave space for his music. "Part of the thing that led to me being upset was, 'I'm writing music and it's a personal and vulnerable state and nobody cares,' so at first I didn't want to get back into that whole thing," he explains. But he picked up his guitar again, started writing songs, and played with friends and in cover bands.

By May 2016, he had a number of songs ready to be recorded under the Timbre Ghost moniker. He spent a month and a half tracking drums and guitar in his friend Derek Lee Miller's garage; bass and vocals were added at Tessier's home.

"I found myself with a concise collection of songs about the classic existential breakdown," he says, but wasn't confident they were album-worthy. Tessier sought out Alan Sparhawk of Low for feedback. "He gave me some sound advice on recording vocals, and told me I had an album," Tessier says. He then enlisted Neil Weir for mixing and Bruce Templeton for mastering.

"He did a remarkable job recording the stuff himself," Weir says of Tessier, whose music reminds him of Neil Young. "He has an ability to conceptualize the song and arrangement in its entirety."

Timbre Ghost's reedy-voiced debut, *The Ledger*, dropped in October 2016. Then began the tough job of booking gigs again.

"I've been really working on getting out and being more social," Tessier says, though that hasn't been easy after such a long hiatus. "It's a weird thing to be an introvert in this extrovert's game but I've got this thing that I can do that feels like communication. That's the role that music plays for me. It's

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articulating the world inside that's affected by the world outside."

"For Dustin, music is more than just a hobby," Boylan concurs. "It's an outlet. He expresses himself through music."

Now 38, Tessier doesn't credit music for his sobriety, but rather "a deeper resilience that keeps me from non-sobriety." Critical thinking, self-awareness, and meditation have been key to his recovery. But nothing has been as healing as connecting with others. "You want to temper the ravages of mental illness and addiction?" he says. "Love. Connect. Care."

Tessier has come a long way since 2011, when he felt "as far away from my true self as I possibly could have been." While his passion for music hasn't changed, his expectations have: "Though I've not become the darling of any scene, or topped the list of local music tastemakers, I continue to make reflective and meaningful art." CP

CRITICS' PICKS

TYCHO

PALACE THEATRE, THURSDAY 4.27

Tycho is possibly the biggest electronic rock group of today — or at least big enough to warrant their larger font size on this year's Coachella poster. Initially an IDM solo project for San Francisco-based Scott Hansen that garnered comparisons to acts like Boards of Canada, Tycho entered a new era in 2014 with *Awake*. It was the first Tycho LP to be recorded by a core three-piece band, with Hansen (still at the helm) joined by Rory O'Connor and Zac Brown. (No, not the country dude.) The biggest revelation here was the guitar playing, surprisingly reminiscent of the silvery, atmospheric picking of The Edge. Tycho's second band-made album, *Epoch*, surprise-released in late 2016, is an eclectic, warm, sometimes melancholy LP. It's a joy to get lost in with the aid of some nice headphones, but its expansive nature should also be well-suited to the new Palace Theatre. Beacon opens. *18+. 8:30 p.m. $29.50. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

FIRST AVENUE, FRIDAY 4.28

Equally acclaimed and cherished, Lucinda Williams' literary, roots-infused ventures into the American South's heart of darkness have yielded memorable dissections of the bitter and sweet, though mostly settling on their unnerving union. Her nuanced drawl, as expressive as her character-driven, emotionally charged lyrics, sparks forays into a simmering blend of country, folk, blues, rock, jazz, and gospel. For this show, she'll return to the scene of one of her greatest joys — marrying Minnesota native Tom Overby onstage — with something special: a complete run-through of *Sweet Old World*, the 1992 album that affirmed the rep for intelligent, probing songs she had established four years earlier on her eponymous breakthrough. The title cut and "Pineola" are remarkable mediations on suicide. "He Never Got Enough Love" and "Memphis Pearl" are striking studies of people struggling through desperate lives. And finally, there's "Hot Blood," Williams' sultry take on pure lust. *18+. 8 p.m. $35. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.* —RICK MASON

THE XX

PALACE THEATRE, FRIDAY 4.28

The xx established a quiet, icy, minimal indie-pop sound so distinct on their self-titled 2009 debut that any significant changes could've alienated their fans. From the start, each member of the London trio was unique and vital: The voices of Romy Madley Croft and Oliver Sim were lonely and sometimes hauntingly entangled, while electronic music auteur Jamie Smith (aka Jamie xx, who's done official remixes of Adele, Radiohead, and Florence and the Machine) oversaw the musical production. After 2012's sophomore outing, *Coexist*, Smith's masterful solo album from 2015, *In Colour*, predicted the richer, prettier aspects of the band's newest LP, January's *I See You*. While there's nothing as exuberant as *In Colour*'s "I Know There's Gonna Be (Good Times)" or as massive as its Croft collab "Loud Places," *I See You* is bedecked with brighter, more hopeful-sounding textures than ever before, whether a gorgeous vocal harmony, an instrumental flicker, or an effective sample-flip from Smith. Sampha opens. *18+. 8:30 p.m. $49.50. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

BILL CHARLAP TRIO

DAKOTA, SATURDAY 4.29

Among the premier contemporary practitioners of the classic jazz piano trio, the Bill Charlap Trio has been around for 20 years, in that time building a rare degree of instinctive musical communication among pianist Charlap, drummer Kenny Washington, and bassist Peter Washington. Big Apple clubs are the trio's home turf, making especially apt the title of its latest album, *Notes from New York*. Supple textures are the group's specialty: sleek sophistication laced with inventive, playful touches lending inherent vivacity to their often sly, subtle perspective. Revelatory interpretations of standards are also the

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trio's forte. *Notes*' repertoire matches a few familiar nuggets with more obscure tunes. The former include album bookends "I'll Remember April," which swings with lively radiance thanks to Charlap's sprightly touch and KW's scuttling brushwork, and a solo piano reading of "On the Sunny Side of the Street" that's unusually moody, while drawing out the melody's character. *$25–$30 at 7 p.m. $20–$25 at 9 p.m. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-5299.* —RICK MASON

HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF

FINE LINE MUSIC CAFE, SUNDAY 4.30

Alynda Segarra grew up in the Bronx, alienated and disaffected. She hung out with punks on the Lower East Side, then hit the road at 17, eventually winding up in New Orleans, where her busking and affinity for American roots music led to the formation of Hurray for the Riff Raff. Following 2014's well-received *Small Town Heroes*, a dusty mix of traditional country, folk, blues, and comparable originals, Segarra moved to Nashville, where her relative isolation prompted yearning for her neglected Puerto Rican/Nuyorican heritage. Thus *The Navigator*, a seismic Riff Raff shift that reconnects rural and urban sounds, initially by a gospel chorus juxtaposed with the sounds of the New York subway, while Segarra quests for identity. In fact, the new album synthesizes a slew of culturally incisive sounds — new wave, doo-wop, Fania-style salsa, Afro-Cuban rhythms, blues, Puerto Rican bomba and plena, plus slivers of Dylan, the Doors, the Velvets, Bowie, Jim Carroll, and Patti Smith. *18+. 8:30 p.m. $16. 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8100.* —RICK MASON

WHITE REAPER

7TH ST. ENTRY, MONDAY 5.1

Few young rock groups are as purely, raucously fun as White Reaper. Since their 2014 self-titled debut, the Louisville four-piece have sought to preserve what they see as rock music's most thrilling sonic elements: big hooks, bigger riffs, raw power. Like their fellow ascendant garage-punks Sheer Mag and Diarrhea Planet, White Reaper always sound like they're having a sticky-fingered, beer-gulping good time. Their brand new LP, *The World's Best American Band*, which zips by in 31 consistently effective minutes, is exponentially more swaggering than their previous records. And though White Reaper usually get the job done through sheer force and volume, sometimes they find a concise, interlocking instrumental balance too, as on album highlight "Eagle Beach." No Parents open. *18+. 7 p.m. $10. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

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Sleep Sex

In the middle of the night, I give rimjobs in my sleep



Dan Savage

I'm a 31-year-old gay male. I've been with my fiancé for three years, and we are getting married in the fall. I've got a question about initiating sex in my sleep—I read somewhere that "sexsomnia" is the "medical" term. According to my fiancé, I have initiated or performed some kind of sex act in the middle of the night and then gone right back to sleep. The next day, I don't remember anything. This freaks me out for a couple of reasons: My body doing things without my mind being in control is concerning enough, but it feels kinda rapey, since I doubt I'm capable of hearing "no" in this state. My fiancé doesn't feel that way; he finds it sexy. The other thing—and maybe I shouldn't have read so much Freud and Jung in college—is that I'm worried my body is acting out desires that my conscious mind doesn't want to acknowledge. According to my fiancé, the last time I did stuff in my sleep, I rimmed him and told him how much I wanted to fuck him. Rimming isn't a typical part of our sex life (although I'd like it to be), and my fiancé has never bottomed for anyone (I've topped guys in prior relationships, but in our relationship I've only bottomed). Is my body doing things that my mind won't admit it wants to do? Is there a way to prevent it from happening?

SEXSOMNIAC HOPING EVENTUALLY EAGER TRYSTS STOP

Sexsomnia is a real and sometimes troubling phenomenon, SHEETS. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine prefers the fancier, more "medical" sounding name: sleep related abnormal sexual behaviors. Dr. Michel Cramer Bornemann, a lead researcher at Sleep Forensics Associates, describes sexsomnia as "sleepwalking-like behaviors that have sexualized attributes." And sleep-rimming your delighted fiancé definitely counts.

"Sexsomnia may be expressed as loud, obscene vocalizations from sleep (that are typically uncharacteristic of the individual while awake), prolonged or violent masturbation, inappropriate touch upon the genitals, buttocks, and breast of a bed partner, and initiation of sexual intercourse," said Dr. Bornemann. "The vast majority of sleep disorders are not reflective of a significant underlying psychiatric condition."

And there's no need to drag poor Sigmund or Carl into this, since you're not doing anything in your sleep that you don't desire to do wide awake. You wanna rim your fiancé, you've topped other guys and would probably like to top this one too—so neither of the examples you cite qualify as desires your "conscious mind doesn't want to acknowledge." Like all sleep disorders, sexsomnia is just something that happens to a very small number of people, there's no need to endow it with deeper meaning.

In most cases, sexsomniacs will hump a pillow or jerk themselves off. The sexsomniacs who tend to make the news—the ones we hear about—are the "unintended criminals," i.e., people who've sexually assaulted someone while asleep. Luckily for you, SHEETS, your fiancé is okay with your "primal automatic behaviors."

But you might wanna watch *Sleepwalk with Me*, an autobiographical film by Mike Birbiglia, a comedian with a sleep disorder. Birbiglia wasn't initiating sex in his sleep—he was jumping out of windows. A danger to himself and others, he sought treatment and is no longer jumping out of windows in his sleep. You're not a danger to yourself or others currently, SHEETS, but if you got a new partner or your current partner's feelings about surprise, middle-of-the-night rimjobs were to change, you could be a danger. So you should chat with a doctor now about drugs and/or other interventions.

"My catch-all advice is to read this book called *The Promise of Sleep* by Dr. William C. Dement," said Birbiglia after I shared your letter with him. "He's sort of the father of sleep medicine. He talks about sleep hygiene extensively, i.e., how to have the best night's sleep possible by avoiding TV, eating heavily, drinking, etc., a few hours before bed. I know this isn't exactly an answer to SHEET's specific question, but getting a better night's sleep could probably help him across the board in ways that he doesn't even realize."

---

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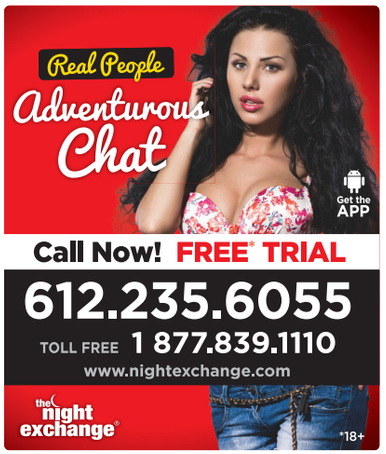
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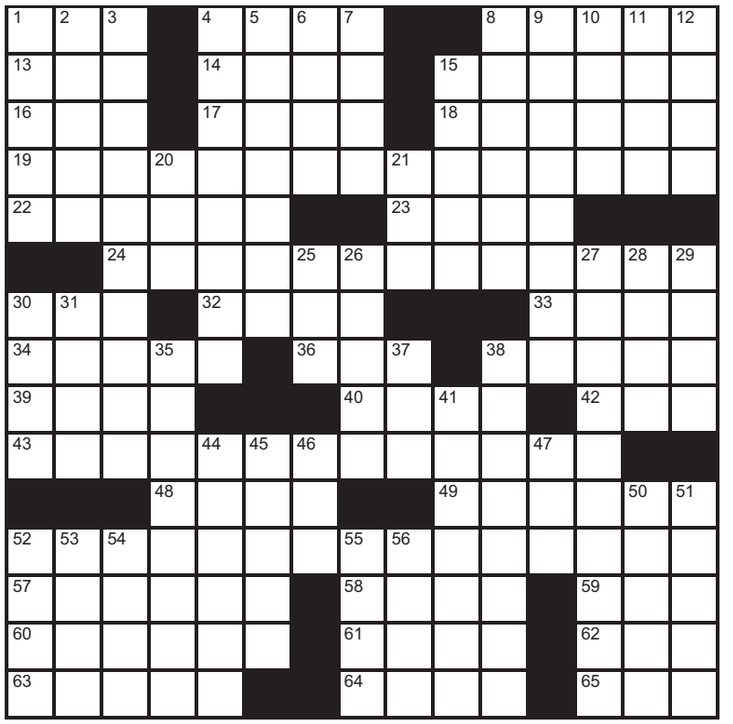
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33 Chemistry compound of crosswords
34 "The soup's delicious!"
36 Farm critter
38 "Go ahead, I know everything."
39 Christian of the cloth?
40 White Sox catcher Narvaez
42 Pick things up?
43 Step on Jiminy?
48 Temple nos.?
49 "Godzilla" creator Tomoyuki
52 Halloween decoration that goes all around the lawn?
57 ___-Lorraine
58 Real heels
59 Peeples of "Pretty Little Liars"
60 Soft drinks that supposedly quell unrest, per a Kendall Jenner ad
61 Color like turquoise
62 Bog newt
63 Taste, e.g.
64 Saharan biters
65 Dickhead?

Down

1 Actress Aimee
2 ___ Vanilli
3 Compliment of an outfit, from one girlfriend to another
4 Repeatedly attack
5 All over the place
6 Left a plane
7 Couple pills, say
8 Add to the pot
9 Court orders
10 "Just ___ Bit" (2005 hit by 50 Cent)
11 Math ratio
12 "Macbeth" witches
15 2/14 sentiment, in short hand
20 Little brat
21 "Don't give me that!"
25 Grp. that brings the heat?
26 Opera voice
27 Like newspaper employee's hands
28 Gold Rush mecca
29 Unmitigated joy
30 Classic Fords
31 Actor La Salle
35 "This American Life" host
37 "Please. Stop. Talking." initially
38 Hot Springs National Park home
41 Misbehaved
44 Non-paper money
45 Utterly detests
46 Riccardo Muti's grp.
47 Wedding RSVP card, e.g.: Abbr.
50 Butter spreader
51 Glass marble
52 Drains
53 Swiss cubist Paul
54 FiveThirtyEight owner
55 Final Four inits.
56 Pages whose last entries often have ways of contacting the co.

Last Week's Answer

A	L	L		P	O	R	T	A	L		N	A	A	N
B	O	A		O	R	A	C	L	E		B	U	C	O
B	R	U	N	O	A	M	B	A	S	S	A	D	O	R
E	N	R	O	L	L					H	E	I	R	S
Y	E	A	R		B	R	I	O	F	O	R	O	N	E
			M	U	S	I	C	A	L					
A	F	L	A	C		M	E	T	E	S		J	U	T
B	R	I	L	L	O				A	T	E	A	S	E
C	O	B		A	C	T	O	R		A	N	N	E	X
				H	O	B	B	I	T	S				
B	O	L	E	R	O	M	I	S	S		E	A	T	A
A	R	E	N	A					H	E	A	D	I	N
B	R	A	N	D	O	T	H	A	T	S	T	H	A	T
K	I	R	I		K	I	D	N	A	P		O	R	E
A	N	N	O		S	A	L	A	R	Y		C	A	D

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